

A WARM SESSION.

Closing Day of the General Debate on the Financial Bill.

MR. BAILEY OF TEXAS SPOKE.

In an hour's talk, he vigorously presented the Democratic view—Proceedings of the Senate.

Washington, Dec. 18.—The closing day yesterday of the general debate on the financial bill proved to be one of exceptional interest. At the outset a sharp personal colloquy occurred between Representatives Wheeler and Berry of Kentucky over the recent Kentucky election and the charges growing out of it. Considerable feeling was shown. Later in the day Mr. Bailey of Texas, until recently the Democratic floor leader, received close attention in an hour's speech, vigorously presenting the Democratic view, and enlisting the time-honored and undying Democratic organization. In marked contrast with Mr. Bailey's utterances Mr. Scudder of New York, who followed him, announced that as a Democrat he believed in the gold standard and would vote for it. Mr. Payne of New York and Mr. Dail of Pennsylvania also spoke during the day. The debate under the five-minute rule occurred today.

Washington, Dec. 16.—Soon after the senate convened yesterday, on motion of Mr. Hale of Maine it was agreed to adjourn from yesterday till next Monday. Mr. Aldrich presented a special order fixing the standing committees and their personnel for the senate of the fifty-sixth congress. The order was adopted without dissent, a statement being made by Mr. Cockrell of Missouri that such vacancies as existed in the minority representation would be filled at an early date.

Mr. Davis of Minnesota secured the passage of a resolution requiring the secretary of state to transmit to the senate the reports of Hon. Bartlett Tripp, Samson commissary, on affairs in Samson.

The senate at 12:42 went into executive session and at 1:10 adjourned until Monday.

Republican National Convention.

Washington, Dec. 16.—The Republican national convention will be held at Philadelphia on Tuesday, June 19 next. The place and date were decided by the national Republican committee yesterday after a friendly contest for the honor of entertaining the convention between the city selected, Chicago, St. Louis and New York.

The meeting of the committee was held at the Arlington hotel and was presided over by Senator Hanna, the chairman of the committee. Forty-three of the forty-five states and all of the six territories were represented.

The proceedings throughout were enthusiastic and harmonious, every speech that was made emphasizing the fact that President McKinley will be re-nominated and that the convention will be in effect simply a ratification meeting. The claims of the rival cities were presented by distinguished citizens in open session.

The balloting occurred in the afternoon behind closed doors. On the first ballot Philadelphia received thirteen votes, Chicago twenty, New York seven and St. Louis nine. On the second ballot the contest narrowed to Philadelphia and Chicago. The New York votes went to Philadelphia and the St. Louis vote was split between the City of Brotherly Love and the Windy City of the Lakes.

Printers Strike.

Pittsburg, Pa., Dec. 16.—The members of Pittsburg Typographical union No. 7 have walked out of the offices of the Pittsburg daily newspapers and struck work, although the scale or contract between the printers and publishers does not expire until Dec. 24. Their demand is that the machinists employed to care for the linotype machines, and who are members of Dequense lodge No. 99 of the International Association of Machinists, be forced to become members of the Typographical union.

Caused Excitement.

Washington, Dec. 16.—Nicholas Davis of Kentucky, a member of troop B, third cavalry, stationed at Fort Myer, Va., who had been drinking heavily, armed with a Krak-Jorgenson rifle and several hundred rounds of ammunition, barricaded himself in an upper room of the company quarters Thursday. He imagined the place was assailed, opened all the windows commanding the various approaches and proceeded to shoot aimlessly about.

Buller Meets With Serious Loss.

London, Dec. 16.—The war office has received a dispatch announcing that Gen. Buller has met with a serious reverse, losing ten guns.

Gen. Buller was attempting to cross the Tugela river. Finding it impossible to effect his object, he ordered a retirement in order to avoid greater losses.

He left eleven guns behind.

The following is the text of Gen. Buller's dispatch announcing his reverse:

"Buller to Landowne, Chieveley Camp, 6:26 p. m., Dec. 15.—I regret to report a serious reverse. I moved in full strength from our camp near Chieveley at 4 o'clock yesterday morning. There are two fordable places in the Tugela river and it was my intention to force a passage through one of them. They are about two miles apart.

"My intention was to force one or the other, with one brigade supported by a central brigade. Gen. Hart was to attack the left drift. Gen. Hilyard the right road, and Gen. Lyttleton was to take the central and to support either. Early in the day I saw that Gen. Hart would not be able to force a passage and I directed him to withdraw. He had, however, attacked with great gallantry and his leading battalion, the Cannought rangers, I fear, suffered a great deal. Col. I. G. Brooke was seriously wounded.

"I then ordered Gen. Hilyard to advance, which he did, and his leading regiment, the East Surrey, occupied Colenso Station and the houses near the bridge. At that moment I heard that the whole artillery I had sent to support the attack—the fourteenth and sixteenth field batteries, and six naval twelve-pounder quick firing guns, under Col. Long, had advanced close to the river. In Long's desire to be within effective range, it proved to be full of the enemy, who suddenly opened a galling fire at close range, killing all their horses, and the gunners were compelled to stand to their guns. Some of the wagon teams got shelter for troops in a donga and desperate efforts were being made to bring out the field guns.

"The fire, however, was too severe, and only two were saved by Capt. Schofield and some drivers, whose names I will furnish.

"Another most gallant attempt with three teams was made by an officer whose name I will obtain. Of the eighteen horses, thirteen were killed and as several drivers were wounded, it would not allow another attempt. Unsupported by artillery, I directed the troops to withdraw, which they did in good order.

"Throughout the day a considerable force of the enemy was pressing on my right flank, but was kept back by mounted men under Lord Dundonald and part of Gen. Gertol's brigade. The day was intensely hot and most trying on the troops whose conduct was excellent. We have abandoned ten guns and lost by shell fire one. The losses in Gen. Hunt's brigade are, I fear, heavy, although the proportion of severely wounded, I hope, is not large. The fourteenth and the sixteenth field batteries also suffered severely. We have retired to our camp at Chieveley."

At Mountville, W. Va., the other night, Frank Walker was hanged. Walker shot Thomas Sanders.

Gen. Otis notified the war department that the transports City of Sydney and Pathian, with forty-eight infantry volunteers, arrived at Manila. No casualties are reported.

Wheat Crop Statistics.

Washington, Dec. 16.—The statistician of the department of agriculture reports the wheat crop of the United States for 1909 at 547,390,000 bushels or 12.2 bushels per acre. The production of winter wheat is placed at 291,600,000 bushels and that of spring wheat at 255,690,000 bushels. Every important wheat growing state has been visited by special agents of the department and the changes in acreage are the result of their investigations. The newly-seeded area of winter wheat is estimated at 30,150,000 acres, which is about 200,000 acres greater than that sown in the fall of 1908. The sowing of wheat is still going on in California and some of the southern states and the foregoing estimate is subject to correction. The average condition is 97.1. The acreage sown with winter rye is estimated at 0.7 per cent less than that of last year. The average condition is 98.2 per cent.

Venezuelan Revolution.

Kington, Jamaica, Dec. 16.—Mail advices just received here say the Venezuelan revolution is taking thorough hold, nearly all the states having declared in favor of Hernandez. The best informed claim that there is no doubt of his final success.

Surinam (Dutch Guiana) reports a widely organized movement for the purpose of aiding the south African Dutch and annoying the resident British subjects.

Adjudged Guilty.

Anglin, Tex., Dec. 20.—Yesterday morning the railroad commission met to consider the matter of the citation issued by that body summoning Col. L. J. Polk, general manager of the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railway company to show why he should not be adjudged in contempt of that tribunal as a result of letters written by him.

Mr. Polk was present in person, accompanied by General Attorney Wharton Terry of the Santa Fe. There were also present Capt. J. Polk of San Antonio, live stock agent of the Santa Fe; F. K. Parks, auditor, and J. E. Moody, secretary to Mr. Polk. Messrs. W. A. McVittie and John E. Bailey of Galveston were also present, besides other spectators.

The railroad commission of the state was represented by First Assistant Attorney General R. H. Ward, assisted by D. E. Simmons, third assistant attorney general.

All parties waived the reading of the citation and Mr. Terry filed and read a general demurrer and exception to this proceeding.

Mr. Terry, addressing himself to his demurrer, stated that the government is divided into three departments—executive, administrative and judicial—and desired to know which head the commission was created. He further stated that the people who created this commission did not contemplate that it would have power under all three of the departments. He dwelt on the idea that the commission is simply a legislative agency and that the claim that it has administrative, executive and legislative power is a pitiful subterfuge, and in support of this read at length from an article written by the late Sawie Robertson, who claimed that it has neither executive nor legislative power.

Mr. Terry then called attention to what he termed a fatal defect in the legislative act conferring the power upon the commission to hold persons in contempt because the law did provide for an execution of their judgment because the said body is not supplied with a sergeant-at-arms or bailiff, and therefore the commission is without means to enforce its judgment.

Mr. Ward for the state conceded the fact that power to punish for contempt is ordinarily conferred upon the judiciary but that the organic law conferred the same power upon other bodies, and he then referred to the text of the constitutional provision governing the regulation of common carriers, especially upon the amendment thereto, which conferred upon the commission all necessary power to carry out its intent and purpose, and declared such amendment as all power and clothed this tribunal with unlimited power. He contended that the constitution gave the legislature power to clothe this body with unlimited power and that the action of the legislature in conferring this power is not subject to revision by the courts.

Mr. Polk was adjudged guilty and fined \$50.

Burning Bridge.

Paris, Tex., Dec. 20.—The southbound Frisco passenger train, due at 9:45 o'clock Monday morning, was reported several hours late and finally had to be abandoned. The Santa Fe made up a train in the yards and went out on schedule time without waiting for connection. The delay was caused by a bridge burning out between Fort Smith and Paris. The belated train had to be abandoned and the limited through train was two or three hours behind schedule.

Ten marriage licenses were issued at Corsicana on the 19th.

Will Recover.

Waco, Tex., Dec. 20.—In the case of Dr. S. M. Jenkins, whose trial on a charge of criminal operation and murder was suspended because of the shooting of the defendant, the jury is waiting and the judge scarcely knows how to proceed for the present, as it is a novel case, and in some respects without a precedent.

Dr. Jenkins was not touched, in a vital point, and his physicians predict his recovery.

There is some paralysis of the skin, but otherwise there are no disagreeable symptoms.

Hugh Wheat, who did the shooting, has been admitted to bail in the sum of \$2500.

It is the general impression among the lawyers that in case Jenkins recovers sufficiently his trial can proceed.

Queen Victoria has sent a sympathetic letter to Gen. Roberts.

Dynamited.

Bridgeport, Tex., Dec. 20.—About 10 o'clock yesterday morning an attempt was made by some unknown party to take the lives of three sleeping Mexicans.

The house in which they slept was dynamited, completely wrecking it, and seriously injuring two of the Mexicans. One escaped unhurt.

One hundred dollars reward has been offered for the arrest of the guilty party.

Truck Growers' Meeting.

Bonham, Tex., Dec. 18.—The Fannin County Fruit and Vegetable Growers' association held a meeting in the county court room Saturday morning and a very interesting session was held. A good attendance was had and each member seemed to take especial interest in the proceedings.

The constitution and by-law of the association were read by the secretary and adopted. They contain many things that insure the success of this diversification move.

It was decided that the membership fee should not be raised, but remain at 25 cents, and the members are confident that in a comparatively short time the membership will comprise every enterprising farmer in the county.

A programme for the next meeting to be held at the same place Saturday, June 6, was arranged.

One object of these meetings every month will be to discuss how and what to plant at different periods, and how to successfully grow what is planted.

As the time for gardening will be at hand before many more meetings, the question of the purchase of seeds was discussed. It was decided that at the next meeting each member bring a list of wheat seeds he will need and the quantity and give same to the secretary, who will submit the entire amount of the association to the different seed houses and secure as low prices as possible.

The next meeting will no doubt be largely attended and good results will no doubt be had.

Hold Robbery.

Sherman, Tex., Dec. 18.—Sheriff Shrewsbury and Deputy Morrison were at Southmayd, eleven miles west of Sherman, investigating a bold and successful holdup at that place.

Harlie McElree, the victim, makes the following statement of the way it took place:

"I was walking from the postoffice to the Texas and Pacific depot. Just as I reached the railroad track a tall man in dark clothes with a broad-brimmed black hat and a handkerchief tied around his face just so his eyes were visible, met me and presented a revolver rather close to my face saying: 'Hold up your hands.' I thought he was one of the boys about town trying to play a trick on me, and I told him to take that pistol away; he might shoot somebody. His reply was: 'Well, I'd just as soon shoot you as any other d—d man.'"

There was something in the ring of his voice, which I realized belonged to a stranger that made me know he was in earnest. It was a chilly night and I had both my hands in my pocket. As I drew them out I brought my pocketbook out in my right hand and held both my hands up. He told me to stand still and with the muzzle of the pistol right against me he went through all my pockets with his other hand. It was not very light where we were and I don't think he ever saw the pocketbook in my hand until he ran his hand up along my arm until he reached the hand the book was in, then he took it. There was, to the best of my recollection, about \$14.50 in the pocketbook. He then told me to move up, and at the point of the pistol he made me walk into the space between McElroy's place of business and the postoffice. Addressing me, he said: 'Now, you run,' and I proceeded to do so without further orders. The man was, in my opinion, about 5 feet 11 or 12 in height."

The officers are diligently at work in the matter, but it seems hard to get a clue.

Natural Gas.

Corsicana, Tex., Dec. 18.—The demand for natural gas for heating purposes is causing the owners of the two pipe lines to extend their mains into the residence districts, and before the winter is over a large percentage of the homes in Corsicana will be heated with natural gas instead of coal. The price charged for gas varies according to the number of stoves in a house, the range being from \$1.75 per month per stove to \$2.50 in residences. Where large burners are put in in business establishments the present price is \$5 per stove per month, and even at this price, which is considered too high, the gas is cheaper, cleaner and much more satisfactory than coal.

Several establishments are now using the natural gas for illuminating purposes and it gives the greatest satisfaction. In short, the natural gas is a boon to this town.

The steamer Belle of Austin, was burned the other night.

Killed a Lion.

Rhame, Tex., Dec. 18.—A Mexican lion was killed Friday evening by Horace Morgan, a young man about 15 years old, residing in Tarrant county. He was on his way to Azle when he was attacked by the vicious animal. It took him about an hour to exterminate the beast, as it seemed to have a great propensity to fight. However, he succeeded in subduing him after ten shots were fired into the animal's body.

Special Session Call.

Austin, Tex., Dec. 19.—The governor yesterday afternoon issued the long-expected proclamation convening the Twenty-sixth legislature in session and fixing Tuesday, Jan. 23, as the date of meeting. The governor embraces four subjects in his proclamation, and a provision quoting the constitution, which permits his submitting other matters from time to time.

The first subject is that of a new tax bill, which was printed yesterday.

The second subject is that of reducing the ad valorem tax to be levied next year. It is proposed to reduce it from 30 to 16 2-3 cents on the \$100. This is recommended in view of the large amount of general revenue now accumulating in the state treasury, and it is estimated that from the present receipts, after paying the expenses of the extra session, there will be in the state treasury at the end of the fiscal year, Aug. 31, to the credit of the general revenue fund \$750,000. This is to reduce taxation and keep money in circulation.

The third subject explains itself, and the fourth, which has not heretofore been mentioned, and comes in the nature of a surprise, contemplates increasing the salaries of the superintendents of the state lunatic asylums.

The last appropriation bill compelled these superintendents to board themselves and families without increasing their salaries. This so reduced their compensation that the governor contemplates increasing the same. The proclamation in full is as follows:

Proclamation by the governor:

I, Joseph D. Sayers, governor of the state of Texas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the constitution thereof, do hereby call a special session of the Twenty-sixth legislature to convene in the city of Austin, beginning at noon Tuesday, Jan. 23, 1900, for the following purposes, to-wit:

1. To provide a tax system for 1901 and succeeding years and which shall take the place of all tax laws now in force.

2. To reduce the rate of the ad valorem tax under present law for general revenue purposes for the year 1900, and to make certain appropriations.

3. To compensate the permanent school fund for any deficiency that may have accrued by reason of the alienation of any portion of the lands belonging to the same under and by virtue of section 2, article 7 of the constitution and in connection therewith to amend or repeal chapter 173, approved June 5, 1899, and known as senate bill No. 344, acts of the Twenty-sixth legislature.

4. To better regulate the compensation of the superintendents of the state lunatic asylums.

5. To consider and act upon such other matters as may be presented by the executive pursuant to section 40, article 3 of the constitution.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the state to be affixed at Austin this 18th day of December A. D. 1899.

JOSEPH D. SAYERS, Governor.

By the governor:

D. H. HARDY, Secretary of State.

Residence Burned.

Sherman, Tex., Dec. 19.—Yesterday morning at 3:30 o'clock the cottage at 913 East Pecos street, the property of Mrs. Howe, was burned. It was occupied by Rev. J. H. Logan. The home is a total loss, valued at \$600; no insurance. Household effects practically destroyed, valued at \$500; no insurance. Fire is supposed to have started from dropping coals from a heating stove.

Shot in a Courtroom.

Waco, Tex., Dec. 19.—Dr. S. M. Jenkins who has been on trial in Judge Scott's court, charged with murder and criminal operation, was shot by Hugh Wheat, a brother of Miss Mary Wheat, the unfortunate woman in the case. Dr. Jenkins was shot in the back and the wound is thought to be fatal. Judge Scott only a few minutes before the time of the shooting had called court to order and asked counsel for the state to put on witnesses and proceed. The courtroom was thronged with an immense crowd, including the witnesses, attorneys, relatives of the parties concerned and those curious to look on at the trial and to see what would transpire. As Hugh Wheat, the brother, walked into the courtroom he made his way to the railing back of where Dr. Jenkins sat and took steady aim at the defendant from behind, sending a ball into defendant's back.

The steamer State of Kansas burned at New Madrid, Mo., the other day.

To Hold a Reunion.

Texarkana, Tex., Dec. 15.—The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers of the lodges in cities adjacent to Texarkana met here yesterday to discuss plans for a reunion during the Christmas holidays. There were forty-one members present. Nothing definite was decided upon, it being understood that another meeting will be held during the ensuing week, when final action would be taken.

EVENTS OF EVERYWHERE.

Election Commissioner Pryor of Kentucky has resigned.

The German reichstag passed to third reading the bill repealing the law prohibiting workmen's associations.

President McKinley sent to the senate the names of 294 census supervisors appointed during the recess of congress.

The Hamburg police have received seventy requests from various parts of Germany for the detention of boys going to join the Boers.

An official dispatch from Manila says that 229 Spaniards who were formerly prisoners in the hands of the Filipinos have arrived there.

A great many bears are reported in the Choctaw nation. Three were killed in Nashola county a few days ago. Their meat retailed for 15 cents per pound.

The Spanish chamber of deputies by a vote of 131 against 53 rejected a motion by Senor Romanes demanding that the government withdraw the navy estimates.

At Adel, Ia., Joseph Hutchens beat his wife to death with a club and then blew his brains out with a shotgun. He was about 65 years of age and had been married forty years or more.

A decided increase in trade between the United States and Mexico is shown by the receipts of the New Laredo Mex. custom-house, which in the last five months amounted to over \$2,000,000.

Andrew Carnegie has authorized the city council of Oklahoma City, Ok., to draw on R. A. Frank of Pittsburg, Pa., for \$25,000 for the purpose of erecting a public library at Oklahoma City.

A severe hail storm covered the country just northeast of Texarkana in Arkansas a few nights ago. The blow passed over Washington and Hope, Ark., and did a great deal of damage to property.

The investigation of the Cherokee auditor's office, which was recently burglarized, developed the fact that \$12,586 in uncollected national certificates has been stolen and are being sold all over the country.

The United States grand jury at Savannah, Ga., has during the present session returned six indictments against persons charged with conspiring against the government in connection with the work done in Savannah harbor.

Members of the Southeastern and Mississippi Valley Freight associations met at Chicago and discussed the general advance of freight rates that is to become effective Jan. 1. The average advance in southern territory will be about 15 per cent.

In the district court at Guthrie, Ok., Henry P. Rudens, a constable, was sentenced to six years in the penitentiary for shooting Ella Arnold, a 16-year-old girl, who refused him admittance to her sister's house to serve a writ one day last summer.

The United States supreme court affirmed the opinion of the court of claims in the case of the claim of the La Abra company against the Republic of Mexico, holding the claim to be fraudulent and unfounded. Justice Harlan delivered the opinion.

On Christmas day the women of the Pelmetto state will present to Lieut. Victor Blue, of the United States navy, a handsome medal as a testimonial of his services in the Spanish-American war. The medal was raised by the Association for Patriotic Award.

John Kendall, a farmer, was held up and robbed by masked men near Waukomis, O. K.

A mass meeting was held in Omaha, Neb., at which resolutions were adopted favoring the Boers in their conflict with England. Gov. Poynter presided and speeches were made by G. M. Hitchcock, candidate for United States senator, Gov. Poynter and a number of others.

The new electoral bill giving proportional representation, passed in Belgium the chamber of deputies. The Catholic party will be unable to elect more than seven deputies in Brussels, instead of eighteen, as heretofore. The Liberals say they will win in that country.

Cotton manufacturers of Augusta, Ga., will advance the wages of their 8000 operators Jan. 1, 50 dispatches from New York state. The wages of operatives elsewhere will also be advanced. About 160,000 all told will be benefited by the advance.

A Washington special to a New York paper says Germany, France, Russia, and Italy refuse to give the United States written assurance that the door will be maintained in China, as per this country's proposal, but will agree to a European plan.

Dispatches from Apia, Samoa, received at Berlin say that news of the final settlement of the Samoan question has been hailed with satisfaction by the German residents and a large majority of the Samoans. Maletoa Tausu's people are depressed.